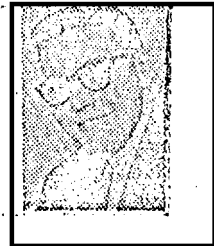


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Page Page Page****Date:****MAY 23 1964****WILLIAM D. McMAHON****Central Intelligence Agency
Said Involved in Cuba Strategy**
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WASHINGTON—The Central Intelligence Agency is playing an important role in the mysterious operations of Manuel Ray, chief of the anti-Castro Junta Revolucionaria Cubana (JURE)—despite those official denials.

With White House approval, the CIA is providing Ray with "unvouchered" government funds through a third party, described as a wealthy Miami businessman.

Also, a number of CIA agents have been assigned to Ray's training camps in Venezuela and Nicaragua. Ray claims to be training a guerrilla force of between 500 and 900 to "infiltrate" the mountainous region where Castro operated before coming into power in 1959.

RAY, UNTIL recently a \$10,000-a-year employe of the Puerto Rican government, was once minister of public works in the Castro regime and is the most controversial of Cuban exile leaders.

In his latest anti-Castro operations, Ray is confining himself

to declarations that his aim is to oust or destroy Castro. Beyond that Ray is making no commitment. He is carefully avoiding any statement concerning the establishment of a democratic government in Cuba.

Efforts of U.S. military authorities to persuade the CIA to "condition" its aid to Ray on such an understanding have been rebuffed.

Richard Goodwin, 31-year-old member of the White House staff who is still on the Peace Corps payroll, is supporting the CIA in this backstage controversy. Goodwin is the inner administration's contact on Ray.